

Message Text

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ORIGIN SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-01 IO-01 ADP-00 /005 R

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DRAFTED BY: S/ NM: HRWELLMAN

APPROVED BY: S/ NM - H. R. WELLMAN

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R 141345 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 087899

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION HONG KONG, LONDON, BANGKOK, RANGOON,
INFO VIENTIANE, MAY 9, FROM SECSTATE RPTD TO YOU:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 087899

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, US, UK, HK

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: US/ UK/ HK STUDY OF SEA NARCOTICS
SITUATION

REF: (A) HONG KONG 4393; (B) VIENTIANE 3356;
(C) HONG KONG 3966; (D) VIENTIANE 3355;
(E) LONDON 5141

1. WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO CONTENTS OF REF B IN
SANITIZED FORM BEING TURNED OVER TO COMMISSIONER ROLPH.
OUR ONLY CONCERN IS THAT PRESENTING HIM THIS PAPER AT
THIS STAGE MIGHT GIVE APPEARANCE OF REJECTING HIS STUDY
GROUP IDEA IN GENERAL AND WE WOULD URGE THAT APPROPRIATE
REMARKS DESIGNED TO FURTHER ENCOURAGE ROLPH' S INITIATIVE
BE MADE WITH THE PRESENTATION OF THE PAPER.

2. CONCERNING SUGGESTION REFTEL C FOR A MEETING OF
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UK/ US/ CONGEN REPRESENTATIVES WITH COMMISSIONER ROLPH
AT END OF MAY, BNDD DIRECTOR INGERSOLL IS WILLING ATTEND
SUCH A MEETING IN HONG KONG JUNE 4-6 PROVIDED UK ALSO
WILLING TO PARTICIPATE. HE WOULD ALSO PLAN BRIEF VISITS
TO BANGKOK AND RANGOON AFTER HONG KONG MEETING.

3. ADDITIONAL WASHINGTON REPRESENTATION UNDER
CONSIDERATION.

4. WE AGREE WITH VIEW EXPRESSED REFTEL E BY UK OFFICIAL
THAT STUDY GROUP SHOULD NOT BE FORMAL OR PERMANENT GROUP
THAT MIGHT SEEM TO INTERFERE WITH UN AD HOC COMMITTEE OR
WHICH COULD ANNOY PRC SENSITIVITIES ABOUT HONG KONG.
HOWEVER, WE DO SEE MERIT IN PURSUING INFORMAL, AD HOC
CONSULTATIONS OR STUDY SESSIONS AMONG HK/ UK/ US OFFICIALS
ENGAGED IN NARCOTICS CONTROL IN ORDER TO GENERATE MORE
INTEREST AND COOPERATION IN TACKLING COMPLEX SEA
NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING PROBLEM. SUCH SESSIONS, IF KEPT
LOW KEY AND WITHOUT PERMANENT STRUCTURE, SHOULD NOT
CONFLICT WITH UN REGIONAL EFFORT OR PRC INTERESTS. THERE
ARE ENOUGH SPECIFIC PROBLEMS TO BE DEALT WITH SO THAT
US/ UK/ HKG COOPERATION SHOULD BE SEEN AS SUPPLEMENTARY TO
OVERALL REGIONAL EFFORTS. WE THUS SUPPORT CONGEN
HONG KONG'S SUGGESTION OF EXPLORATORY TALKS IN NEXT FEW
WEEKS FOR FORMATION OF STUDY GROUP AS MEANS TO SUSTAIN
MOMENTUM OF ROLPH'S PROPOSAL. WE BELIEVE TOPICS LISTED
PARA 3 REFTEL D ARE GOOD ONES FOR PROPOSED STUDY GROUP
TO CONSIDER.

5. ACTION: A) REQUEST CONGEN HONG KONG DETERMINE
WHETHER VISIT BY INGERSOLL JUNE 4-6 WOULD BE CONVENIENT
TIMING. B) REQUEST EMBASSY LONDON SOUND OUT UK
OFFICIALS (SUGGEST CHRIS TRAIN IN HOME OFFICE) TO SEE
WHETHER THEY WILLING SEND TO HONG KONG APPROPRIATE
COUNTERPART TO INGERSOLL. EMBASSY SHOULD STRESS THAT
THESE WOULD BE QUIET, EXPLORATORY TALKS CONCERNING THE
FORMATION OF AD HOC BILATERAL GROUP, WITH HKG PARTICIPA-
TION, TO STUDY SEA NARCOTICS PROBLEMS. C) REQUEST
EMBASSY BANGKOK ADVISE WHETHER POL COUNSELOR PICKERING
AVAILABLE TO PARTICIPATE TO PROVIDE REGIONAL INPUT HONG
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KONG DISCUSSIONS. ROGERS

UNQUOTE. RUSH

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